

Tridentine Community News

August 3, 2008

Liturgical Law, Canon Law, and Custom – Part 3 of 3

A Consolidated Reference

We have many times made mention of the principal reference book for the Tridentine Mass, Fortescue/O'Connell/Reid's "Ceremonies of the Roman Rite Described." In a strict sense, it is not an authoritative book at all, despite having a foreword by Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei President Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos essentially endorsing it as the modern era's standard reference book for the Extraordinary Form. But what "Fortescue" does have, and the reason virtually everyone consults this book first, is extensive footnotes which reference official Vatican documents on various Rubrics. Almost every page cites S.R.C. #xyz, P.C.E.D. #abc/def, and so on. Furthermore, the 2003 edition of Fortescue is the only English Rubrics guide which incorporates the P.C.E.D. rulings made up to the date of publication. Popular or not, those rulings are indeed the present law of the Church. And current editor Dr. Alcuin Reid is working on yet another updated edition encompassing post-2003 rulings.

Being attentive to the Rubrics means being cognizant of all of the sources of them. We strive to follow all of the authoritative sources we can identify. When in doubt, we choose the conservative option. For example, we omit the *Confiteor* before Holy Communion because it is not in the 1962 Altar Missal.

That is not to say that we do not tolerate the occasional exception: For instance, historically the Final Blessing (*Benedicat vos omnipotens Deus...*) was recited, not sung. A celebrant who chooses to sing it is taking advantage of a 1997 P.C.E.D. ruling.

Isn't This Too Much To Keep Track Of?

It is unreasonable to expect every church that celebrates the Extraordinary Form to be aware of all of the rules. That is why it is prudent to err on the side of tradition when something is in question. Even in this age of the Internet, there is no way to keep up with all of the P.C.E.D. rulings, especially since most of those have been issued as private responses to individual questions.

The recent controversy over a possibly mandatory move of the Feast of the Ascension from Thursday to the following Sunday when a diocese does that for the Ordinary Form is a prime example: The P.C.E.D. apparently responded to a question from the Bishops of England and Wales, who publicized the P.C.E.D.'s response without quoting or showing a scanned copy of the official ruling. Without proof of the official ruling, does the rule apply? Does it apply to countries other than England and Wales? Just what did the official reply say, anyway? Clearly, someone needs to consolidate such rulings. The forthcoming revision of the Fortescue book promises to do that, but even it will be out of date in short order. The Ecclesia Dei Commission does not publish a *Tridentine Mass Today* newsletter to keep us all informed. Perhaps they should make use of the Internet to post a compendium of their decisions.

In today's resurging Tridentine scene, each church must simply do the best it can to follow the currently-in-force rules for celebration of Holy Mass. Some Tridentine communities may not possess all of the vestments or supplies that should be employed, but it is better to start with an imperfect – yet striving to improve – Tridentine Mass than not to have one.

Tridentine Confirmations

We would like to ascertain the demand for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be administered according to the Extraordinary Form. Before contacting a bishop, we need to know how many individuals are interested. If possible, the event would be scheduled for Spring, 2009. St. Josaphat Cluster members should fill out the form in the Sunday Bulletin. Assumption members should speak with Fr. Hrytsyk after Mass or e-mail the address at the bottom of this page.

At Last – A Tridentine Triduum in 2009

Our prayers have been answered: Fr. Borkowski has authorized that St. Josaphat Church will host the full Easter Triduum according to the Extraordinary Form in 2009. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil will all be celebrated according to the 1962 Missal.

Assumption-Windsor will continue to host its own Tridentine Good Friday Liturgy late in the afternoon, while St. Josaphat's will be held earlier in the afternoon, so that everyone's schedule can be accommodated.

Special Tridentine Mass for Our Lady of Czestochowa

On Tuesday, August 26, St. Josaphat Church will hold a special Missa Cantata at 7:00 PM for the Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration after the noon (Novus Ordo) Mass. This Tridentine Mass will be a rarely-seen celebration of Mass Before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, to be followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament.

Bishop Boyea to Celebrate First Mass as Ordinary

We all knew it would happen. Now we know the date: Sunday, September 28 at 4:00 PM, Bishop Earl Boyea will celebrate his first public Mass in the Extraordinary Form as Bishop of Lansing at All Saints Church in Flint, Michigan. It will be a Pontifical Low Mass (Missa Cantata with embellishments), as he was accustomed to celebrating at St. Josaphat.

The Assumption-Windsor Tridentine Choir has been invited to provide the music for this Mass. A dinner will follow the Mass; details on dinner tickets will be published when we know them. All Saints Church is located at G-4063 Pierson Road, one block east of the Pierson exit off I-75.